VALIANT
TUROK
DINOSAUR HUNTER
41
APR
$2.50
FURMAN
COUTO
RIBIERO
DIRECT SALES
04111
7 16892 87065 1

TUROK
DINOSAUR HUNTER®

REMMY RIBEIRO	BENJAMIN JUNG	JOE ALBELO	MAURICE FONTENOT	BOB LAYTON
INKS	COLORS	LETTERS	EDITOR	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CHURCH OF THE "POISON" MIND

BY SIMON FURMAN AND MOZART CUOTO

The body of a young girl was discovered early yesterday, washed up on the banks of the Red River, close to Wichita Falls. She had been stabbed repeatedly. Her killing has been linked to an earlier series of ritual-style murders.

A member of the New Mexico based religious cult, the Church of the Free Mind, nineteen year old Alison Marlowe was reported missing a week ago. Since her disappearance and subsequent murder, her mother, Sheryl Marlowe has renewed her calls for an investigation into the cult and it's leader, The Reverend Vane.

Vane was the subject of a police investigation two months ago, accused of the murder of three other cult members. Though he was later acquitted, the vital evidence--the knife used--dismissed as being the result of an illegal search, many remained convinced of his guilt.

Dubbed by it's detractors, "The Church of the Poison Mind", a reference to the cult's alleged use of mind control and drugs, Vane's church is one of several fringe religious organizations that demand strict obedience and enforced isolation. Its members are strongly encouraged to turn their backs on their families and devote themselves entirely to its teachings. Once in, it's often very hard of 'converts' to break free

Turn to Page 5, Column 1

THE TANOAN FLATS INDIAN RESERVATION--
STRANGE.
I IMAGINED A SIMPLE TRANSFER; DEFECTIVE PART OUT, REPLACEMENT PART IN.
BUT I KEEP ENDING UP WITH PIECES THAT NO LONGER HAVE A HOME, THAT NO LONGER FIT.
I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE IT IS THE FAULT OF THE REPAIR MANUAL...
...BUT IN TRUTH MY MIND HAS NOT BEEN ON THE TASK.
NOT SINCE I--
COMPANY.
VA-ROOOMM!

THANKS, GUYS...
...SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING.
HEY, TUROK.
SAY, YOU'RE NOT STILL TRYIN' TO GET THIS HUNK'A JUNK GOING, ARE YOU?
FACE IT, THE WHITE MAN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE INDIAN AGAIN.
ONLY THIS TIME HE DID IT BY PASSING OFF THIS WRECK AS EVEN REMOTELY ROADWORTHY.
ANDY, THOSE PEOPLE. THEY'RE WITH THAT CHURCH, AREN'T THEY?
THEY'RE FRIENDS, OKAY?
AND IF YOU MEAN THE CHURCH OF THE FREE MIND, YEAH-- IT IS THAT CHURCH.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? YOU DON'T BUY INTO ALL THAT MEDIA DISINFORMATION, DO YOU? LOOK, THEY'RE OUT TO GET VANE.

TUROK DINOSAUR HUNTER® Vol.1 No. 41, April, 1996. Published by VALIANT®, a division of Acclaim Comics Inc., Steven J. Massarsky, President. Office of Publication: 275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001. ©1996 Acclaim Comics Inc. TUROK is a registered trademark of Western Publishing Inc. All other characters herein and the distinctive likenesses thereof which originally appeared in publications originally published by Western Publishing Company, Inc. are trademarks of Western Publishing Company, Inc. All other characters herein and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Acclaim Comics Inc. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any persons living or dead, or any institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA

IT'S BECAUSE HE CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL VIEWS...
...BECAUSE HE OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT SCARES THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE, THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE RULES.!
THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO TOOK AWAY OUR LAND AND HERDED US INTO THESE GHETTOS.!
HE'S DANGEROUS. SOMEHOW, HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE.
STAY AWAY FROM HIM.!
JUST LIKE THAT, EH? TEACHER KNOWS BEST. WELL, I'VE GOT A NEW TEACHER NOW, ONE THAT WAS PICKED BY ME INSTEAD OF FOR ME.! I'M OLD ENOUGH TO CHOOSE MY OWN PATH...
...WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL!

OKLAHOMA CITY--
WHY AM I HERE?
WHY AM I INTRUDING ON THIS WOMAN'S GRIEF?
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
...AM I STILL TRYING TO ERASE THE STAIN OF BLOOD FROM MY OWN PAST?
:SNF.!:
HUMAN BLOOD, ANDAR! SOME MADMAN HAS SPILLED HUMAN BLOOD ON THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR!
YOU.!
HOW DARE YOU DESECRATE THIS MOST SACRED OF PLACES WITH YOUR UNCLEAN PRESENCE?
GHYAR!
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE...

...OR ARE YOU COMING IN?
SHERYL MARLOWE? I AM--
WHAT EXACTLY CAN I DO FOR YOU?
THIS WILL BE PAINFUL FOR YOU, BUT--
WAIT.
INSIDE...
I WANT TO HELP AND I DO NOT KNOW HOW.
WHEN I SAW VANE WALK FREE MONTHS AGO, I FELT SUCH ANGER, A BURNING RAGE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH HAS FANNED ONCE MORE.
BUT VANE WIELDS SUCH INFLUENCE, SUCH POWER...HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT BREAKING HIS HOLD?
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS NOW SINCE ALISON LEFT, THREE YEARS OF SHEER HELL, NOT KNOWING IF SHE WAS EVEN ALIVE!
I'VE FILLED THAT TIME DOING EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO BRING VANE DOWN!
IF IT'S INFORMATION YOU'RE AFTER... YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

FROM TALKING TO THE FEW CONVERTS WHO DID MAKE IT OUT, WE--
--THAT IS, THE OTHER INVOLVED PARENTS AND MYSELF--
--HAVE COMPILED A CONSIDERABLE DOSSIER ON THE CHURCH.
VANE USES A MIXTURE OF HALLUCINOGENIC DRUGS AND SENSORY DEPRIVATION, TORTURE AND TERROR.
BUT HIS SICKNESS, HIS... EVIL, GOES FAR DEEPER THAN THAT.
THREE ARE DEAD THAT WE KNOW OF. FOUR NOW. WE'RE SURE THERE ARE OTHERS.
IT TOOK US OVER A YEAR, FIGHTING NOT JUST THE OPEN HOSTILITY OF VANE'S FOLLOWERS, BUT ALSO THE INDIFFERENCE AND DISBELIEF OF THE AUTHORITIES, BUT WE DID IT... WE GOT VANE CHARGED AND INTO COURT.
CAN YOU IMAGINE THEN, WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO SEE IT ALL DISAPPEAR... BECAUSE SOME IDIOT DIDN'T GET THE RIGHT COURT ORDER?!
VANE MAY BE MANY THINGS, BUT HE'S NOT STUPID. HE KNEW HE WAS TAKING A HUGE RISK, KILLING AGAIN SO SOON... AND ALLOWING THE BODY TO BE FOUND.
IT WAS A WARNING-- TO ME, TO US-- AN OBJECT LESSON.
THAT IS THE SORT OF MAN WE'RE DEALING WITH!

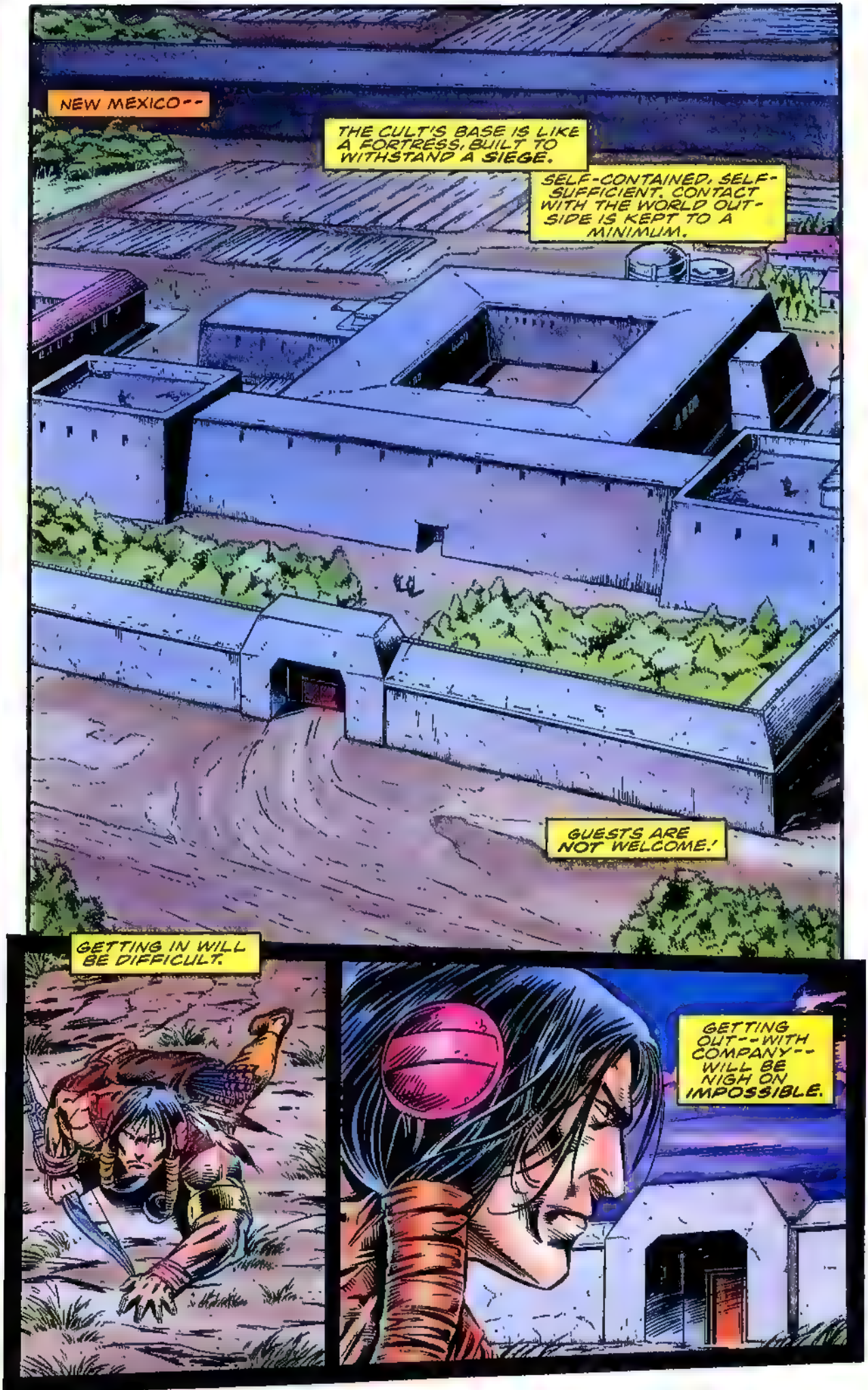
I...AM SORRY.
SORRY?!
I DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPATHY. THAT WON'T BRING ALISON BACK OR HELP THOSE STILL TRAPPED IN VANE'S WEB!
YOU SPOKE OF YOUR ANGER AT SEEING VANE GO FREE...AND YET YOU DID NOTHING!
HOW MANY MUST DIE...
...BEFORE SOMEONE ACTS?!
BE SILENT, BOY!
IT IS NOT FOR YOU, OR ANY OUTSIDER, TO QUESTION THE WAYS OF THE TRIBE OF ORG!
IT IS WHEN YOUR HIGH PRIEST TAKES TO SPILLING THE BLOOD OF HUMAN BEINGS!
ANIMALS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR GHYAR, IS THAT IT?
ANDAR, YOU HAVE NO VOICE HERE. AS ORG SPEAKS FOR HIS TRIBE...I SPEAK FOR OURS.

IF GHYAR TRULY BELIEVES THE GODS ARE ANGRY, AND THAT ONLY HUMAN SACRIFICE WILL APPEASE THEM... THEN IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION HIS WISDOM.
THE MATTER IS CLOSED.
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE--
ANDAR, THAT IS ENOUGH! THE ELDERS HAVE SPOKEN.
WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU DID!
YOU COULD HAVE BACKED ME UP, ARGUED... SOMETHING!
BUT YOU SAID NOTHING!
NOTHING TO SAY?
I'M NOT SURPRISED. DON'T YOU SEE? THE LAWS YOU ADHERE TO SHIELD VANE. THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIM...
...IS TO STEP OUTSIDE THEM!

LATER--
I FEEL KEENLY THE PULL OF TWO WORLDS, TWO TIMES, THE LAWS OF THIS ERA TIE MY HANDS...
KLIK!
IF THE LAW HERE PROTECTS ONLY THE GUILTY...
...BUT THE ANGRY DEFIANCE OF A BEREAVED MOTHER CALLS FOR BOLD, DECISIVE ACTION.
...THEN THE LAW IS WRONG!
WELL?
WE'RE TOO LATE.
SHE IS OF OUR ADOPTIVE TRIBE.
NOW, IT IS OUR BUSINESS!

IN THE NAME OF HAGI THE GRIM, AND MUUL THE ALL-SEEING, I NOW GIVE THIS TRIBUTE...
NO! YOUR GIVING DAYS ARE DONE, GHYAR!
THE UNCLEAN! KILL--
THUNK
SLASH!!!
I DO THE WORK OF GODS HERE, OUTSIDER.
I APPEASE THOSE WHO--IN THEIR WRATH--HAVE POISONED THE LAND AND THE SKIES!
IT WAS MEN, NOT GODS, WHO CHOKED THIS LOST LAND! A FACT YOU KNOW ONLY TOO WELL! THE ONLY THING YOU APPEASE HERE...

...IS SOME DARK, UGLY NEED OF YOUR OWN!
BLOOD MUST FLOW...
...AND IT WILL!
ARRGH!
RRRSH!
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ANDAR...
...BUT INSTEAD I LET MYSELF BE BOUND INTO DESTRUCTIVE INACTION BY POLITICS AND LAWS!
I CANNOT BRING BACK THOSE YOU HAVE SLAIN...
...BUT I CAN MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!
RRSH!
FRSH!


NEW MEXICO--
THE CULT'S BASE IS LIKE A FORTRESS, BUILT TO WITHSTAND A SIEGE.
SELF-CONTAINED, SELF-SUFFICIENT. CONTACT WITH THE WORLD OUTSIDE IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM.
GUESTS ARE NOT WELCOME!
GETTING IN WILL BE DIFFICULT.
GETTING OUT--WITH COMPANY--WILL BE NIGH ON IMPOSSIBLE.

I PROBE FOR A WEAKNESS AND FIND A ROOF THAT EXTENDS SLIGHTLY BEYOND THE PERIMETER WALL.
UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS--
FLASH
--I MOVE.'
I DUNNO, VANE'S GOT IT IN FOR ME, I'M SURE. THIS IS THE FIFTH NIGHT IN A ROW I'VE DRAWN GRAVEYARD SHIFT.'
ALL 'CAUSE OF THAT ONE GIRL.'

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT. YOU SHOULD'A KNOWN VANE DON'T LIKE NO ONE MESSIN' WITH HIS PRIVATE STOCK. YOU'RE LUCKY HE DIDN'T FIRE YOU ON THE SPOT.
THEN YOU'D HAVE HAD SOMETHIN' TO BITCH ABOUT.'
PAID MUSCLE...
WHUMP!
...I DO NOT NEED TO BE GENTLE.'
SHEEEKT!

WHACK!
WHUNK!
KIAA!
HUK--!
I LISTEN. READY FOR THE SOUND OF RUNNING FEET, RAISED ALARMS.
NEITHER COMES.
...I DO NOT KNOW WHAT I SHALL DO!
GOOD. TAKING OUT VANE'S HIRED GUNMEN IS ONE THING. IF I ENCOUNTER RESISTANCE FROM THE CULTISTS THEMSELVES...

NOT MUCH TO WORK WITH.
A PHOTOGRAPH OF A GIRL WHO MAY NOT EVEN BE HERE...
...AND A BADLY SKETCHED INTERIOR MAP!
BUT THEN, I'VE MADE DO WITH LESS.
GOOD. NOW FOR THE GIRL...
JUNE MEDDOCK, ALISON MARLOWE'S CLOSEST FRIEND. SHE ENLISTED AT THE SAME TIME.
IF SHE IS AWARE OF ALISON'S DEATH, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IT...
...HER OWN LIFE MAY BE IN DANGER!
hnGnh
THERE. IT'S HER.

JUNE.
WH-MM!?!
DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED. I AM A FRIEND. I BEAR A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MOTHER.
I AM GOING TO TAKE MY HAND AWAY NOW...
GOOD. SHE TOLD ME TO SHOW YOU THIS, TO PROVE I AM HERE ON HER BEHALF.
YOUR GRAD--
THUNK!
HNG.!!

HELP!
HELP ME!
GET HIM!
EXACTLY...
...WHAT I WISHED TO AVOID.'
THEY ARE MANY, BUT THEIR THREAT IS BLUNTED BY THE VERY FERVOR THAT DRIVES THEM.
I COULD, I BELIEVE, PREVAIL... BUT AT WHAT COST?
RISK HURTING THEM... OR WORSE? THAT IS NOT WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.'
ENOUGH.'

VANE!
IT SEEMS WE HAVE A GUEST.
ALBEIT AN UNINVITED ONE!
BRING HIM!

SOON...
SO, YOU CAME TO TAKE DEAR JUNE FROM US, EH?
DID YOU ONCE STOP TO CONSIDER SHE MIGHT NOT WANT TO LEAVE?
THIS IS NO PRISON. MY FLOCK ARE FREE TO COME AND GO AS THEY CHOOSE.
JUST BECAUSE ONE CANNOT SEE THE BARS, DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE NOT THERE.
SUCH DEFIANCE, SUCH WILL.!
YOU WEAVE YOUR WEB IN THE MIND... YOU PARALYZE IT WITH VENOM SPAT FROM YOUR MOUTH.!
TO BREAK YOU, TO TAME THE SAVAGE BEAST...THAT WOULD BE MY CROWNING GLORY.!
POOR SAVAGE. WHEN I'M DONE PLAYING WITH YOUR HEAD, YOU'LL BE BEGGING ME...
...TO LET YOU DIE.!
TO BE CONTINUED...